



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FACT SHEET

2006 SAN DIEGO CRIME INDEX SHOWS 2.3% DROP IN ACTUAL CRIMES; 3.2% DECREASE IN VIOLENT CRIMES

Murder rate increases, but still lowest of 10 largest cities in America

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced the 2006 Crime Index for the City of San Diego, and the statistics show that the city remains one of the safest large cities in the country. San Diego was recently found to be the fourth safest large city in America, in spite of having one of the smallest police forces in the nation with roughly 1.6 budgeted police officers for every 1,000 citizens.

For all of 2006, overall crime was down by 2.3% and violent crime was down 3.2% when compared to 2005. With a crime rate of 39.4 crimes per 1,000 people in 2006, crime rates are lower now than they were in 1976 (80.0), 1986 (79.2) and 1996 (52.1). In the past six years San Diego's crime rates have decreased to levels comparable to those in the late 1960s.

THE 2006 CRIME INDEX ALSO SHOWS THE FOLLOWING:

- San Diegans were **half as likely** to be victims of crime in 2006 as they were in 1992, when we had 160,000 fewer residents than we have today.
- The 6,391 violent crimes reported last year was the **lowest number since 1985**. Violent crimes have decreased for in 12 of the past 14 years in San Diego.
- **Out of every 1,000 citizens, less than five were victims of violent crime in 2005**; that is down nearly two-thirds from the rate in 1992.
- **Property crime last year was also down**, by 2.2% from the previous year. San Diegans were nearly 50% less likely to be the victim of a property crime in 2006 than in 1992.
- There were 45,209 property crimes committed in 2006; less than 35 for every 1,000 citizens. Overall, **less than 40 out of 1,000 citizens were crime victims**.

- There were also **impressive reductions** in the areas of **rape** (-7.4%), **aggravated assault** (-11.7%) and **vehicle theft** (-5.7%); decreases which account for much of the decrease in overall crime.
- This past year **police response times have dropped** in all categories, meaning that **officers are getting to citizen calls quicker**.
- **Domestic violence cases fell by almost 10%**; the fourth annual decline in a row and a 26% drop since 1992. Much of the decreases are attributable to the San Diego Family Justice Center which continues to be heavily involved in public education and the aggressive prosecution of domestic violence suspects.

MURDERS, ROBBERIES INCREASED IN 2006:

- While overall crime is down, murders in San Diego went up last year from 51 to 68, a troubling 33%. Despite the increase in homicides, San Diego has one of the lowest homicide rates among the 20 largest cities in the U.S.—only three cities had a lower homicide rate in 2005: Austin, San Jose and Honolulu.
- In fact, in 2005, **San Diego had the lowest number of homicides, by far, among the 10 largest cities in the country**, and it is expected to have the lowest number in 2006.
- Additionally, the number of robberies increased from 1,862 to 2,164, a 16.2 percent spike.
- Although there is always a concern then there is an increase in a particular category, it's difficult to point to a specific reason or reasons to explain these increases and still be accurate. Statistically, you can't look at one year to determine what is occurring. The police will monitor the statistics in these areas to determine, over time, if they represent a trend or an aberrational up tick.
- However, **crime is up nationwide in these areas** (murder, robbery), not just in San Diego.

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT - Preliminary Year End Crime Comparison
DECEMBER 2006

FBI INDEX CRIMES	Actual Crimes				% Clearances		
	Dec 06	Jan-Dec 06	Jan-Dec 05	05-06	Dec 06	Jan-Dec 06	Jan-Dec 05
Murder	6	68	51	33.3 %	100.0 %	55.9 %	88.2 %
Rape	31	348	376	-7.4 %	38.7 %	37.1 %	46.8 %
Robbery	177	2,164	1,862	16.2 %	45.8 %	33.3 %	34.1 %
Agg. Assault	268	3,811	4,314	-11.7 %	80.6 %	54.6 %	59.8 %
Violent Crimes SUBTOTAL	482	6,391	6,603	-3.2 %	65.4 %	46.4 %	52.0 %
Burglary	657	7,746	7,462	3.8 %	18.4 %	13.0 %	13.7 %
Larceny	1,962	24,125	24,613	-2.0 %	22.2 %	13.4 %	13.6 %
Motor Veh Theft	1,228	13,338	14,138	-5.7 %	1.3 %	1.5 %	1.4 %
Property Crimes SUBTOTAL	3,847	45,209	46,213	-2.2 %	14.9 %	9.8 %	9.9 %
TOTAL	4,329	51,600	52,816	-2.3 %	20.5 %	14.3 %	15.2 %
Rate (per 100,000)	3,962	3,935	4,045	-2.7 %			
Arson	10	185	233	-20.6 %	40.0 %	19.5 %	21.0 %

Crime Analysis
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